

Government reassurance on environmental standards post-Brexit

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The Government has published its latest Brexit paper and says that it: “will continue to maintain our high standards for consumers, employees, the environment and animal welfare”.

The statement has been welcomed by CIWM chief executive, Dr Colin Church, who said: “It is one brief point among many but CIWM welcomes the Government’s explicit commitment to maintaining high environmental standards in the new Brexit position paper published yesterday.

“It is essential that our environmental standards are not sacrificed in the pursuit of future trade deals or economic growth at any cost. Every statement of intent given by the Government on this front helps to ensure that it can be held to account if actions don’t meet words.”

However, chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers have criticised the Government for making the full transition to Brexit unnecessarily complex.

Speaking after the publication of the plans for a customs union, the Chemical Industries Association (CIA), said: “cross-government acceptance of the need for a transition period is very much welcomed by our sector and many others — it’s a priority that CIA has been highlighting for some time now. Surely, however, the best way to guarantee no adverse disruption to business and trade during a transition period, and to guarantee only one adjustment before reaching a final

agreement with the EU, is to seek to retain our existing membership of the single market and customs union, rather than pursue a 'close association' with the customs union that still leaves key questions around regulatory continuity, tariff and non-tariff barrier impacts".

Future Customs Arrangements: A Future Partnership Paper is available from www.gov.uk.

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